The Basics of Stealth 3

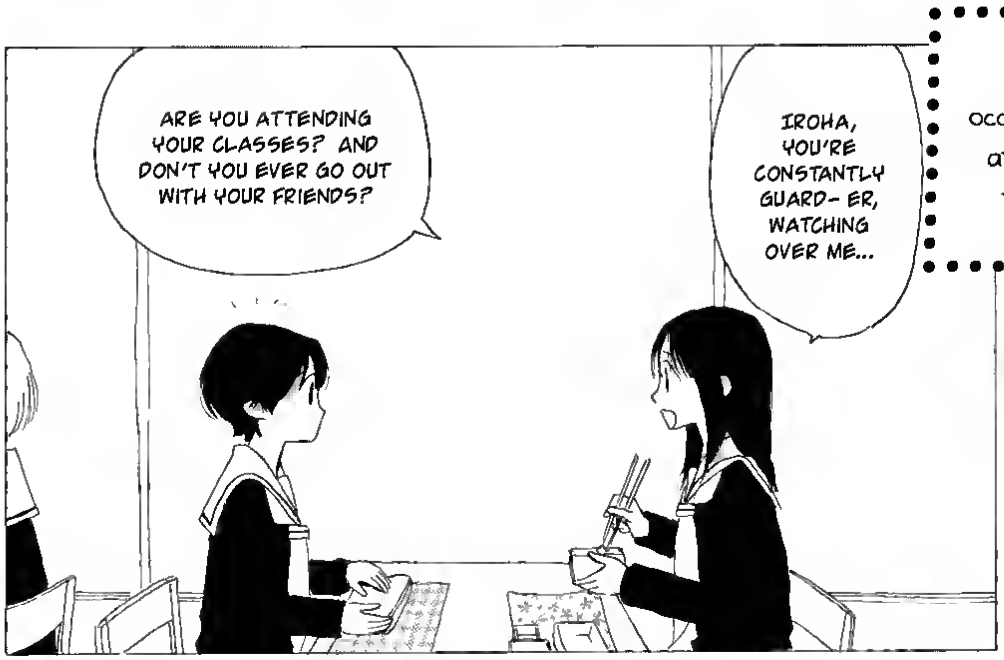
~Sakura's Game of Tag~

My name is Kumezaki Sakura I'm in my second year of high school

I'm presently running for my life

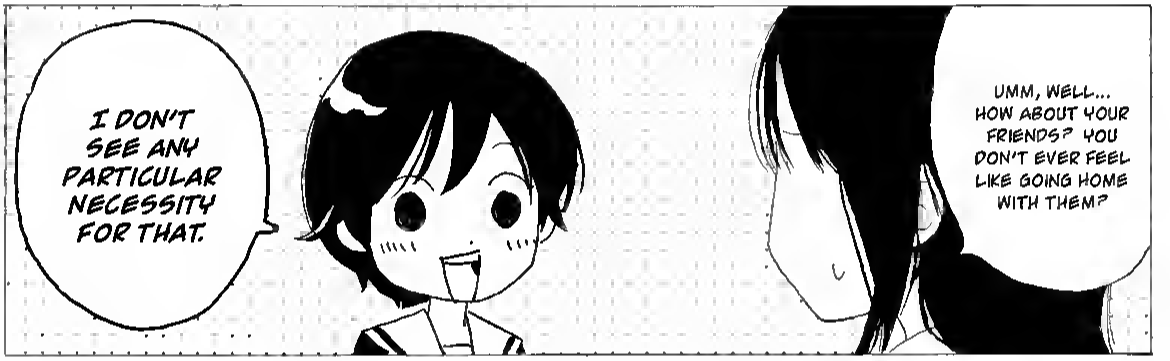
presented by ASUKA SASADA
ささだあすか

I have a ninja (?) servant named Iroha
Iroha
I will protect Sakura-sama!
...
498,
499,
500.
START!
However, at the moment, I'm running away from her.
I CAN'T LET MYSELF GET CAUGHT!


An occurrence at lunch today
ARE YOU ATTENDING YOUR CLASSES? AND DON'T YOU EVER GO OUT WITH YOUR FRIENDS?
IROHA, YOU'RE CONSTANTLY GUARD- ER, WATCHING OVER ME...

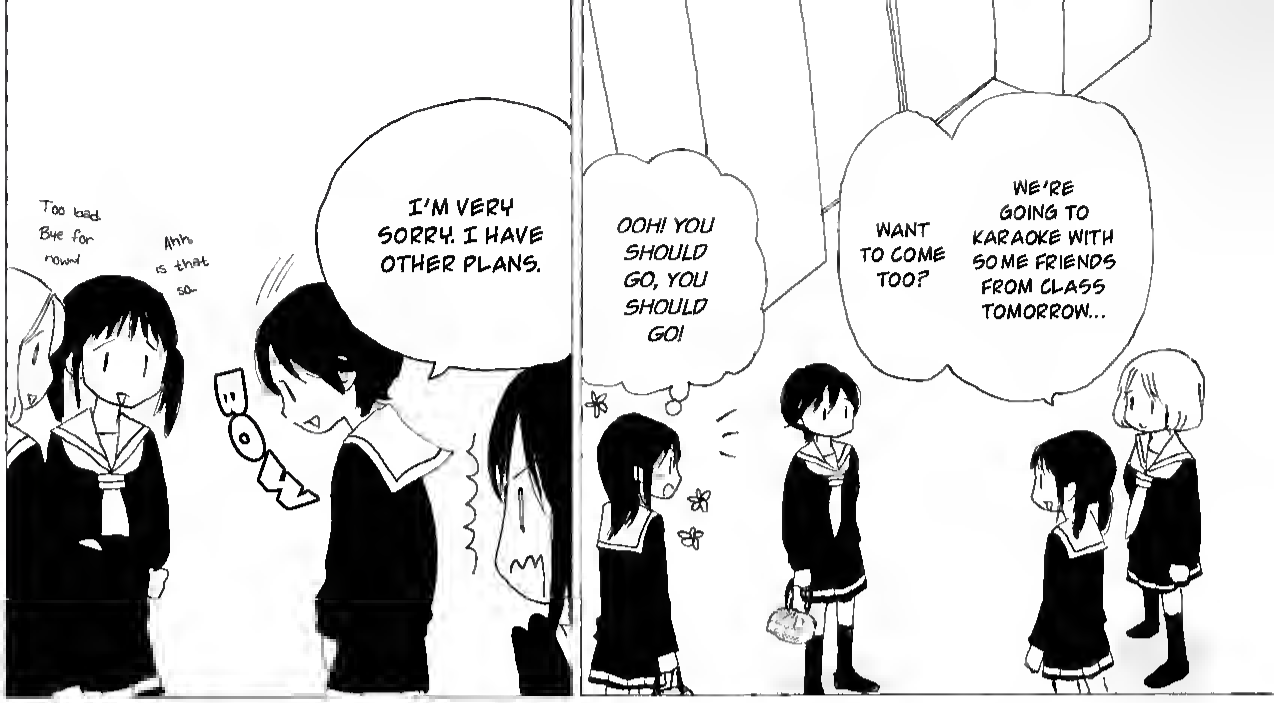
The times when I'm NOT safe
Primarily going to and from school and during breaks between classes
The floor's lower!
The staircase ended!
IS... THAT RIGHT ...

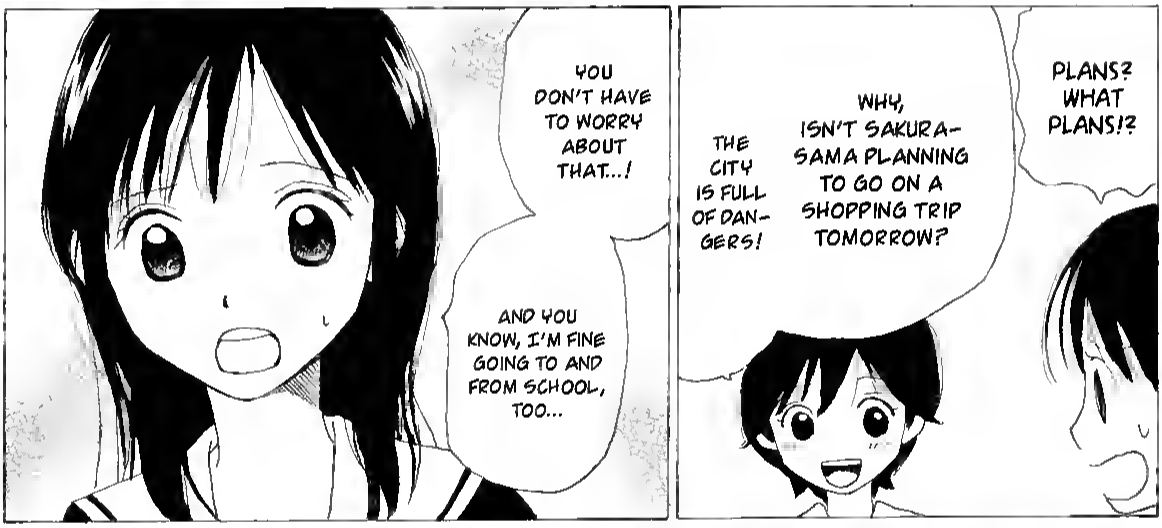
YES, I GO TO CLASS! ONE'S STUDIES ARE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.
IT WOULDN'T DO TO BE CLINGING AROUND YOU 24/7,
SO DURING THOSE TIMES WHEN SAKURA-SAMA IS SAFE, I LEAVE YOU ALONE FOR THE MOST PART!


UMM, WELL... HOW ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS? YOU DON'T EVER FEEL LIKE GOING HOME WITH THEM?
I DON'T SEE ANY PARTICULAR NECESSITY FOR THAT.

CAN WE HAVE A SECOND?
It really is!
AH, IT'S IROHA-SAN!
THERE IS ME, YOU KNOW...

Y-YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS?


I'M VERY SORRY. I HAVE OTHER PLANS.
BOW
Too bad. Bye for now!
Ahh is that so
OOH! YOU SHOULD GO, YOU SHOULD GO!
WANT TO COME TOO?
WE'RE GOING TO KARAOKE WITH SOME FRIENDS FROM CLASS TOMORROW...


YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT...!
AND YOU KNOW, I'M FINE GOING TO AND FROM SCHOOL, TOO...
PLANS? WHAT PLANS!?
WHY, ISN'T SAKURA-SAMA PLANNING TO GO ON A SHOPPING TRIP TOMORROW?
THE CITY IS FULL OF DANGERS!

BUT THINGS LIKE GOING OUT TO PLAY WITH YOUR FRIENDS -- THAT KIND OF HAPPINESS IS IMPORTANT TOO!
AH, BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO JUST DON'T WANT FRIENDS... FORCING THEM INTO IT ISN'T DOING THEM ANY FAVORS...
BUT REALLY, SHE SHOULD FOCUS A LITTLE MORE ON OTHER THINGS, NOT JUST ME ALL THE TIME!
AHH... I WANT TO SAY ALL THIS TO HER, BUT HOW CAN I EXPRESS IT...?
Are you feeling ill Sakura-sama?

TO BE HONEST, IT REALLY WEIGHS ON ME... SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY LIBERTY BECAUSE OF ME...
THERE'S NO REAL REASON FOR HER TO ALWAYS BE PROTECTING ME IN THE FIRST PLACE (THAT SUPPOSED OLD DEBT OR WHATEVER)...
BUT SHE ALWAYS LOOKS SO HAPPY FOLLOWING ME AROUND..
JUST SEEING HER LIKE THAT MAKES ME HAPPY TOO, REALLY...

IROHA!
YOU HAVE TO LIVE MORE FOR YOUR OWN HAPPINESS!

WHY DO I ALWAYS COME OUT WITH THIS OVER-THE-TOP STUFF?
WHAT WAS THAT! WHAT WAS WITH THAT LAME LINE!?
Hyaaaa!

ALL RIGHT THEN,
WE'LL HAVE A CONTEST, IRONA!
I'LL WALK HOME FROM SCHOOL ALONE TODAY
I'LL GET HOME QUICKLY, AND WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS
I'm sweating in an unpleasant way.
Ugh.
AHH HH...
I'M NOT FIT FOR ANYTHING MORE THAN A TWO-BIT THIEF-CATCHER!
NO, THERE'S NO WAY I COULD BE SHOGUN!
SHAKE
SHAKE
SPLENDID! SAKURA-SAMA IS, TRULY, PURE SHOGUN MATERIAL!
dap dap

IT'S A GAME OF TAG!
IF I CAN REACH MY HOUSE BEFORE YOU CATCH ME, IT'LL BE MY VICTORY, AND YOUR LOSS!
WHY A CONTEST?
I THOUGHT IT'D BE EASIER TO UNDERSTAND THAT WAY.
ANYWAY!
IF YOU LOSE, YOU HAVE TO GO WITH YOUR CLASSMATES TO KARAOKE TOMORROW!

AFTER I LEAVE THE SCHOOL, YOU HAVE TO COUNT TO ONE HUNDR-... ER, TWO HUNDR-... TO FIVE HUNDRED BEFORE YOU CAN START.
↑Arbitrary handicap
I'M DEFINITELY NOT GOING TO LET YOU CATCH ME, AND I'LL GET HOME SAFELY TOO.
AH.
BUT..
NOPE, IT'S SETTLED!
OH HO HO, I'M WINNING THIS ONE!
I'm starting to feel kind of excited.
AH...

I KNOW THIS TOWN BETTER THAN SHE DOES.
Have to be careful here I fell here once
Back to the present
So, that's how we've reached this point
I'VE GOT THIS.
INSTEAD OF THE USUAL WAY, I'LL TAKE BYPATHS THAT IROHA DOESN'T KNOW...
VICTORY IS MINE!
JUST AROUND THAT CORNER,
AND I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE MY HOUSE...
ching
ching
WAH!

CAUGHT YOU!
THAT WOULD WORK, WOULDN'T IT!!
I JUST HAD TO TAKE A DIRECT ROUTE THERE AND WAIT FOR YOU...
SINCE YOU WERE GOING TO EVENTUALLY END UP AT YOUR HOUSE,
I had wanted to point that out to you beforehand.
Bypaths I haven't used since elementary school.
I ONLY TOOK ROADS I WAS SURE YOU DIDN'T KNOW...
HOW'D YOU DO IT?
Ah, no please excuse me.
Hmm! Don't ride out ahead by yourself!
Oh, excuse us!
She really came out of nowhere!

WHAT A DOLT I AM RUNNING AROUND FOR NO REASON.
HOWEVER,
SINCE I UNDERSTAND WHAT SAKURA-SAMA WAS TRYING TO TELL ME,
I'LL GO TO THE KARAOKE NEVERTHE-LESS.
EVEN THOUGH,
WATCHING OVER SAKURA-SAMA ON HER OUTING
WOULD BE MUCH, MUCH MORE FUN FOR ME.

SO, PLEASE COME WITH ME!
NOT AS A BODYGUARD, BUT AS A FRIEND!
THAT'S ...
I CAN JUST MESS AROUND AT HOME TOMORROW! I'LL GO SHOPPING ON SUNDAY!
... YES!
They both suit you perfectly!
Which one looks better?
You're not helping at all-
End

Sakura
A fatal exception 0E has occurred at
0026:C 011E36 in VXD VMM(01) + 00010E36. The
current application will be terminated.
* Press any key to terminate
the current application.
* Press CTRL+ALT+DEL again to restart
your computer. You will lose any unsaved
information in all applications.
Press any key to continue _

The Basics of Stealth 03

by Sasada Asuka

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